



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION FOR INSTITUTIONAL INSPECTIONS
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FOUNDER
Mrs. Sybil Brand

CHAIRPERSON
Mrs. Eleanor R. Montañó

VICE CHAIRPERSON
Mr. Frank S. Bacio

Ms. Barbara Bigby
Ms. Rita Hall
Mr. John A. Hammargren
Mrs. Anne S. Hill
Mr. Carl E. Moore

MINUTES OF THE **SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION FOR INSTITUTIONAL INSPECTIONS** **REGULAR WEEKLY MEETING** **SEPTEMBER 9, 2009**

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Montañó called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m.

OPENING CEREMONIES

Chair Montañó led the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a moment of silence.

ATTENDANCE

Present

Chair Eleanor R. Montañó
Barbara Bigby
Rita Hall
John A. Hammargren
Anne S. Hill

Excused Absence

Vice Chair Frank Bacio
Carl E. Moore

Staff, Commission Services

Martha Arana
Jimmy Prieto
Andrew Sevrin

APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 2, 2009 MEETING MINUTES

On motion of Commissioner Hammargren, seconded by Commissioner Bigby, and unanimously carried, the minutes of the meeting of September 2, 2009 were approved with the following corrections:

On page 3 under "Facility/Group Home Inspection Reports from August 26, 2009, to September 1, 2009,"

O'Conner & Atkins Home – 32, #3 – Commissioner Montañó

The facility was visited on August 31, 2009, and **areas inspected were** found to be in satisfactory condition. **Unable to inspect kitchen and bathrooms due to remodeling.**

CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Montaña reported on the following newspaper articles:

"Women Get Prison in Abuse of Boy, 5" Los Angeles Times, September 5, 2009, regarding two women who were sentenced to prison for the brutal abuse of a 5-year-old boy.

"Experts Worry Child Deaths Will Lead to Panic" Los Angeles Times, September 5, 2009, regarding experts' fears that following a series of high-profile deaths of children in Los Angeles County, foster care agencies could overreact to the renewed scrutiny by tearing hundreds of children needlessly from their families.

Chair Montaña reported that she, along with Commissioners Hall and Hammargren, attended the Aviva Center Ceremony today (September 9, 2009), before the Commission meeting, and added that the event was a success. Others in attendance were Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, 3rd District, and Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa.

TREASURER'S REPORT

There was none.

CORRESPONDENCE/AUDIT REPORTS

Commissioners Bigby and Hill reviewed the following Audit Reports with the Commission:

Leroy Haynes Center – 27, #1 – Audit Report dated April 8, 2009.

Hathaway – Sycamore Children and Family Services-El Nido Group Home. 23, #1 Audit Report dated August 28, 2009.

DISCUSSION OF SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Due to the Commission's inability to secure potential candidates, the Sybil Brand Commission Scholarship Program might be postponed this year.

FACILITY/GROUP HOME INSPECTION REPORTS FROM SEPTEMBER 2, 2009 TO SEPTEMBER 8, 2009

Moore's Cottage – 30, #4 – Commissioners Bigby and Hill

The facility was visited on August 28, 2009, but unable to inspect; no one was home.

Leroy Haynes Center – 27, #1 – Commissioners Bigby and Hill

The facility was visited on September 3, 2009, and found to be in satisfactory condition.

Areas of Concern: (Whitney Cottage) downstairs cold water faucet needs repair; shower door needs cleaning.

Hathaway-Sycamore Children and Family Services-El Nido Group Home – 23, #1 – Commissioners Bigby and Hill

The facility was visited on September 8, 2009, and found to be in satisfactory condition.

Areas of Concern: (Rowland Cottage) stove top needs cleaning; (Hunter Cottage) hall bedroom needs drywall repaired; a longer bed and mattress for one youth is recommended (minor approximately 6 feet tall).

San Gabriel Children's Center – 42, #2 – Commissioners Hammargren and Montaño

The facility was visited on September 8, 2009, and found to be in satisfactory condition.

Areas of Concern: Lint trap dirty; shower needs recaulking; kitchen cabinets need to be redone; *Health and Education Passport* not on site.

Humanistic Foundation /New Concept – 26, #3 – No report on file (Verbal)

Commissioners Hall and Moore

The facility was visited on September 8, 2009, and was not inspected because home was previously inspected by Chair Montaño last month.

NEW BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

There was none.

MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA (To be presented and placed on a future agenda)

There was none.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was none.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Montaño adjourned the meeting at 1:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Martha Arana
Commission Services Division